



# Montgomery County Council

*From the office of Councilmember Phil Andrews*

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**News Release**

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**September 11, 2003**

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## **Remarks by Councilmember Phil Andrews on behalf of the Montgomery County Council at the Dedication of the County's September 11 Memorial**

Our hearts still hurt from the terrible loss of family members, neighbors and friends on a day that started out just like today two years ago. Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to the family and friends of the 11 county residents who died that day.

Not only was 9/11 the most horrific terrorist attack in our nation's history, it was the second most deadly day in all of American history, with deaths exceeded only by the Civil War battle of Antietam.

Unlike most tragedies, 9/11 was televised and experienced in a very powerful, personal and unprecedented way by almost all Americans, and much more horrifying than anything we'd seen before. Each of us will remember for the rest of our lives where we were that day and the emotions we felt as we watched the tragedy unfold.

The suddenness of the deaths as well as the senselessness and cruelty of the attacks compound the shock and tragedy of the personal loss felt so deeply by so many for so many. The eleven county residents whose lives were taken that day had little if any chance to say goodbye to loved ones.

We cannot know what you who lost loved ones have gone through the past 24 months. We can only offer our love and support. Although we will never forget how they died, this memorial is also to honor how they lived, the people they loved, and the difference they made for our county and our nation.

This brilliantly conceived and beautifully designed memorial that we dedicate today ensures the 11 county residents who lost their lives on 9/11 will always be remembered in our county for the rest of our days.

The memorial reminds us of how our lives can be extinguished without warning. It reminds us to savor life every day—to live each day fully.

The memorial also reminds us of how some hate so much they will destroy themselves to destroy others. And the memorial reminds us how many people love others so much that they will sacrifice their lives and run into burning buildings to help others.

With memories of that September morn,  
With eleven benches that here adorn,  
With a prism and its sunlit ray,  
We remember our residents lost that day.

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